



Beach funding survives legislative session

By DEBBIE FLACK

The first sentence of the *St. Pete Times* legislative wrap-up said it all in just a few words: "Call it a parade of horrors." At the end, apparent budget agreements unraveled and "must-pass" bills didn't. The good news is it ended on time, and beaches enjoyed full funding by the Legislature.

Fortunately, there were signs from Day One that securing adequate funding for beaches would be easier this year than last. The Governor and House both began with \$27.5 million for beach management, exactly what DEP had sought.

Although only \$2.5 million short (amazing how we can use the word "only"), from getting to the \$30 million mandated by Chapters 161.091 and 201.15(11), given the agreement of the previously noted "three," seemed quite challenging.

Fortunately, the Senate held firm at \$30 million to get the issue (the difference) to Conference.

FSBPA's conference strategy, through BeachWatch, was quite simple — get the House to concur with the Senate position. With the active involvement of a number of Senators, we succeeded early on in the conference process.

The final Appropriations Bill for FY 04-05 includes:

- \$25 million for beach projects
- \$4,932,204 for continuing operations
- \$200,000 (by proviso) for permit support
- **TOTAL: \$30,132,204 FOR BEACH MANAGEMENT**

Projects funded are identified on the Department's priority and alternative lists dated Dec. 11, 2003. The priority list includes 23 separate projects or activity categories.

Activities include dollars for numerous local governments for post-construction monitoring, design and feasibility,

sand search, and regional monitoring.

Nourishment projects, in priority order, include:

- Captiva
- Brevard
- Hutchinson Island
- Longboat Key
- Venice
- Ocean Ridge
- Fort Pierce
- Town of Palm



Beach

- Collier County
- Phipps Beach
- Boca Raton
- Navarre Beach.

Inlet/management and sand transfer activities identified for funding include:

- St. Lucie Inlet
- Blind Pass
- St. Andrews Inlet
- Sebastian Inlet
- Ponce DeLeon Inlet.

Beaches did well! We have all our coastal legislative members to thank, but especially Senators Dennis Jones, Ken Pruitt, Jim King and Charles Clary.

Please thank them personally. ❖



What (or who) would you like to hear at annual meeting?

The FSBPA Annual Meeting is Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at South Seas Resort, Captiva. We all eagerly await the FSBPA annual conference. It's a time to continue our education, network, and spend some time with folks who actually understand what we do.

What would you like to hear about this year? Maybe you want to know more about what is happening in Washington and Tallahassee. Or maybe you wonder if layering different kinds of beach fill is a good idea. Or maybe you'd like to have a better handle on the media? What are your questions?

We'd also like to know who you'd like to hear speak. You may know of someone who is a great speaker and has excellent insight, but may not submit an abstract. Let us know. You may have a peren-

nial favorite who you'd like to hear again. Let us know that, too.

Send your ideas to Stan@fsbpa.com. Please also include a phone number so he can follow up.

Is there someone you know who deserves recognition for his or her efforts for beaches in Florida? Whether the person is an engineer, elected official, private citizen or government official, the FSBPA recognizes the hard work that goes into protecting Florida's beaches.

The FSBPA Awards Committee is looking for nominations in the following categories:

- Bill Carlton Award
- Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award
- Bob Dean Coastal Research Award



- Jim Purpura/TY Chiu Engineering Award
- Local Government Award
- Legislative Award
- Private Citizen Award
- Environmental Award
- Member of the Year.

In preparing your nomination, remember that the Awards Committee is looking for specific activities and accomplishments rather than general background. Nominations are due **June 25**. For more information, go to www.fsbpa.com and click on the annual meeting. ♦

DEP issues changes to 62B-33 amendments

DEP has published a "Notice of Change" to proposed amendments to Chapter 62B-33, F.A.C., Florida Administrative Code, Rules and Procedures for Coastal Construction and Excavation (Permits for Construction Seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line and Fifty-foot Setback). These changes were made in response to oral public comments and staff recommendations, received during the adoption hearing held on Tuesday, April 20, 2004. For more information, visit the DEP's home page at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us>, under the link "Official Notices." ♦



SHORELINE

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Around the state

■ Venice took the lead in a nationwide coalition of coastal communities that plans to sue the federal government. The city says that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has violated a decade-old local cooperation agreement in which the city and the federal government combined on an \$18 million project to spread 2 million cubic yards of sand on the beach from 1994 to 1996. They say the Corps agreed then to periodically finance beach renourishment for the next 50 years. Now the federal government has said they are not going to honor signed agreements.

■ This spring, the Florida Marine Research Institute in Melbourne started a statewide program to identify horseshoe crabs most important nesting beaches. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a consortium of several states, requires all Atlantic states to identify the crabs spawning beaches. Although they have changed little in 350 million years, they face threats from overfishing and coastal development. They are killed for commercial products and medical research and are also used as bait. In Florida, the main obstacle to horseshoe crab-nesting is armoring the coastline.

■ The first sea turtle nest in Southwest Florida was spotted on April 24 on the beach be-



According to a biologist for the state park system the area around the St. Johns County Fishing Pier, seen here near high tide, is one of the most critically eroded beaches in Florida. Photo by Peter Willott, Jacksonville Times-Union.

tween Stump Pass and the state park on Don Pedro Island.

■ The Collier County Commission voted to approve a \$106 million plan for dredging the county's passes, widening its beaches and providing access to them for the next 10 years. The biggest expense is \$14.5 million to add sand to Vanderbilt Beach, Park Shore and Naples beaches. That project is set to start in November. The 10-year plan sets aside money for sea turtle monitoring, beach cleaning and various beach monitoring projects.

■ According to a recent *Sun Sentinel* article, the Miami, Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale boat shows have more economic impact than

having an annual Super Bowl and they contribute to the economy every year. ♦

Send us your pictures of beaches in use!

We have lots of photos of eroding beaches, beaches being nourished and beaches right after nourishment – complete with tire tracks. What we don't have many of is people enjoying the new wide beaches. We'd also like to collect some of critters using the beaches, whether it be birds or turtles or whatever. Can you share? We're happy to give you credit. E-mail us files (PDFs, JPGs or TIFs OK) to kgooderham@comcast.net. ♦